

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$4.4 Million to Improve 240 Public Housing Units Across Commonwealth

Energy-efficient upgrades will reduce emissions across seven housing developments, reduce costs, and enhance residents' quality of life

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Housing and Community Development

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NEW BEDFORD — Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced seven awards totaling \$4.4 million to upgrade 240 state-aided public housing units through the Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative. Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Janelle Chan, New Bedford Housing Authority Executive Director Steven Beauregard, legislators and local officials in New Bedford to announce the awards.

These awards will fund capital improvements to 240 state-aided public housing units, resulting in the reduction of utility costs at these seven developments by an estimated \$161,000 annually, reduce CO2 emissions by a projected 1.268 million pounds annually, and leverage \$2.8 million in other local funding.

“We are thrilled to support these improvements to Massachusetts’ existing affordable housing stock, which is a critical resource for low-income households across the Commonwealth,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “We are also proud to further the administration’s efforts to build a more resilient Commonwealth and help cities and towns across the state prepare for the impacts of climate change.”

The Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative (CSI) was established as part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s FY2020 Capital Plan, which called for substantial new investments in emissions reductions and climate change preparedness, including \$5 million in new funding for the Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative for sustainability and resiliency in public housing.

“We are pleased to make these new investments in energy-efficiency and building improvements at these seven properties to ensure Massachusetts’ public housing portfolio is ready for the future,” **said Lt. Governor Polito**. “Local housing authorities are incredible community partners, not only in providing safe, quality housing for their residents, but also in helping the Commonwealth achieve environmental goals to make Massachusetts more resilient.”

“As we look to substantially increase the production of affordable and market-rate

housing throughout the Commonwealth, it is imperative we maintain our current stock of affordable housing,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy.** “These awards will enable our local housing authorities to address maintenance needs in a smart, forward thinking way. We are pleased to be increasing state investments in our local housing authorities.”

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will also use new climate resiliency investments to create a master plan across their housing portfolio to prioritize maintenance and address the potential impacts of climate change on existing housing stock. While DHCD had previously made small awards to local housing authorities to increase energy efficiency in their units, this new investment has enabled DHCD to substantially increase the scope of projects eligible for funding and make larger awards.

“By both reducing energy use and increasing resilience, these important improvements will cost-effectively ensure Massachusetts’ public housing is prepared for the impacts of climate change, and help us meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Katie Theoharides.** “Strategic investments like these are a critical part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s comprehensive strategy to address climate change and build a cleaner, more resilient Commonwealth.”

“We are proud to enhance efforts to prepare our public housing portfolio for the effects of climate change through this increased investment,” **said Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Janelle Chan.** “Much of our existing housing stock was originally built decades ago, and these investments in climate resiliency will ensure our housing resources are ready for many more decades. I want to congratulate all of today’s awardees on their work stewarding such an important asset.”

“This award will have a significant impact on improving the energy efficiencies at our Blue Meadows development,” **said Steven Beauregard, Executive Director of the New Bedford Housing Authority.** “Our residents will see a significant difference in comfort during the heating season and the savings generated will allow us to continue with additional improvement initiatives.”

“As a national leader in sustainability and resilience efforts, we are always looking for ways in which our public and private partners can participate in our shared goal of reducing the city’s carbon footprint and mitigating the effects of climate change,” **said New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell.** “I congratulate the New Bedford Housing Authority on their success in securing CSI funding for critical improvements at Blue Meadows, and am grateful to the Baker-Polito administration for providing this opportunity for local housing authorities like the NBHA to be a part of the solution.”

“The City of Fitchburg and the Fitchburg Housing Authority could not be more thankful to Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and the Department of Housing and Community Development for the CSI grant funding,” **said Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale.** “Canton Valley offers forty-eight affordable housing units to Fitchburg Seniors. This funding will not only upgrade these units to new energy efficient systems, but more importantly it will improve the quality of life for our residents.”

“Housing is one of the most pressing issues facing our seniors and local families,” **said Senator Mark C. Montigny.** “It is imperative that we maintain our existing housing stock by investing in basic upkeep and energy efficient units that will help generate savings.”

“The Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative grants announced today will soon benefit the Housing Authorities of Carver and Taunton by providing resources for initiatives that improve efficiency and conserve energy,” **said Senator Marc R. Pacheco.** “Replacing various heating and electricity system components will significantly reduce carbon emissions and minimize the energy required to run the units, which are now over thirty years old. These upgrades will ultimately help us ensure that local families and seniors in need have access to affordable homes that are safe and warm.”

“The Stoughton Housing Authority provides crucial placement and shelter for numerous individuals and veterans in the community of Stoughton and beyond,” **said Senator Walter F. Timilty.** “This substantial Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative Award, which has been bestowed upon the Stoughton Housing Authority by the Baker-Polito Administration, will enable the Authority to increase their buildings’ system efficiencies while, simultaneously, reducing harmful emissions. Accordingly, this award will be both a

cost benefit to the Stoughton Housing Authority, as well as an overall benefit to our shared environment.”

“Climate change resiliency and sustainability efforts have become an integrated part of the Commonwealth’s capital planning, especially in terms of improving our public housing stock. This Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative grant will allow the New Bedford Housing Authority to pursue energy efficiency improvements that will have long-term cost savings,” **said Representative Antonio F.D. Cabral**, Chairman of the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

“Having spent part of my childhood in public housing, I know first-hand the critical importance low income housing plays for many families,” **said Representative Shaunna O’Connell**. “I am extremely pleased that my hometown is receiving these awards which will help improve our housing and grateful to the Baker-Polito administration for providing this funding.”

“I am thrilled that the Stoughton Housing Authority will receive \$650,000 to make essential upgrades, including the installation of new roofing, doors, insulation, and high efficiency boilers and hot water heaters. These improvements are great from an economic and environmental standpoint. Thank you to the Baker-Polito Administration, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Kennealy, Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Chan, and the Department of Housing and Community Development for their work in administering this award,” **said Representative Bill Galvin**.

“I am very appreciative that the DHCD understands the importance of assisting the Fitchburg Housing Department in providing safe, clean, and quality housing to the residents of Fitchburg,” **said Representative Stephan Hay**.

The Department of Housing and Community Development oversees funding and resources to help people in Massachusetts live affordably and safely. DHCD, through its community and private-sector partners, provides affordable housing options, financial assistance, and other support to Massachusetts communities. DHCD oversees different types of assistance and funding for consumers, businesses and non-profit partners.

2019 Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative Awards:

Monsignor Powers, Boston Housing Authority, \$750,000

This project will add a Variable Refrigerant Flow HVAC system, high efficiency hot water heaters, and replace the roof at the 68-unit elderly development built in 1976. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce energy costs by 53% and through reduction in utility use reduce emissions by approximately 790,000 pounds annually.

Huckleberry Lane, Brewster Housing Authority, \$583,790

This project will replace siding, upgrade insulation, and install high-efficiency boilers at a 24-unit family development built in 1988. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce energy costs by 19% and through reduction in utility use reduce emissions by approximately 56,000 pounds annually.

Meadowbrook Way, Carver Housing Authority, \$621,986

This project will replace the roof with air sealing, increase insulation to 8"+, replace siding & doors, and install new boilers, water heaters, and hot water tanks at 28 family and elderly units built in 1984. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce utility costs by 34% and through reduction in utility use reduce emissions by approximately 32,000 pounds annually.

Canton Valley, Fitchburg Housing Authority, \$625,426

This project will replace roofs, siding, doors, and upgrade interior and exterior lighting at a 48-family development built in 1957. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce utility costs by 24% and through reduction in utility use reduce emissions by approximately 160,000 pounds annually.

Blue Meadows, New Bedford Housing Authority, \$550,000

This project will install more efficient toilets and boilers as well as upgrade siding and roofing at 22 units of a 150-unit family development built in 1951. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce utility costs by 37% and through reduction in utility use reduce

emissions by approximately 104,000 pounds annually.

Veterans, Stoughton Housing Authority, \$650,000

This project will replace roofs, add basement insulation, replace doors, and install high efficiency boilers and hot water heaters at a 26-family development built in 1947. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce utility costs by 20% and through reduction in utility use reduce emissions by approximately 59,000 pounds annually.

Martel Ave & Chandler Ave, Taunton Housing Authority, \$600,000

This project will install high efficiency toilets & showerheads, high efficiency boilers and hot water heaters, and improve roof, attic, and basement insulation at 24 scattered site family units built in 1984. The efficiency measures are expected to reduce utility costs by 24% and through reduction in utility use reduce emissions by approximately 67,000 pounds annually.

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